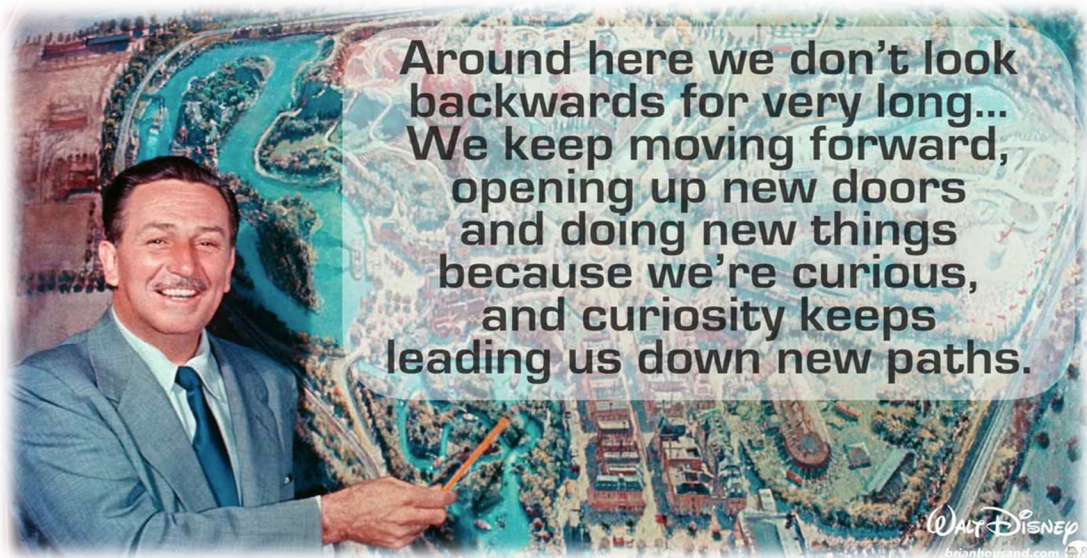


108
Greatest Of All Times



Globally selected
Personalities



5 Dec 1901 <::><::><::> 15 Dec 1966

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Compiled by:
Prof Dr S Ramalingam



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5 Dec 1901



15 Dec 1966

Walt Disney



Disney in 1946

Born	December 5, 1901 Chicago , Illinois, U.S.
Died	December 15, 1966 (aged 65) Burbank , California, U.S.
Occupations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Animator• film producer• voice actor• entrepreneur
Title	President of The Walt Disney Company
Spouse	Lillian Bounds (m. 1925)
Children	2, including Diane Disney Miller
Relatives	Disney family
Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 26 Academy Awards^[a]• 3 Golden Globe Awards• 1 Emmy Award

List of Academy Awards for Walt Disney

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Academy_Awards_for_Walt_Disney



Walt Disney (1901-1966) won or received a total of twenty-six Academy Awards and holds the record for most Academy Awards in history. He won twenty-two competitive Academy Awards from a total of fifty-nine nominations, and also holds the records for most wins and most nominations for an individual in history.

Disney won his first competitive Academy Award and received his first Honorary Academy Award at the 5th Academy Awards (1932). He received the Honorary Academy Award for the creation of Mickey Mouse and won the Academy Award for Best Short Subject (Cartoon) for the film Flowers and Trees. In the seven Academy Award ceremonies that followed (6th-12th), Disney consecutively earned nominations and won in the same category.

Disney received three more Honorary Academy Awards, one in 1939 and two in 1942. At the 26th Academy Awards (1954), Disney won the Academy Award in all four categories in which he was nominated: Best Short Subject (Cartoon), Best Short Subject (Two-reel), Best Documentary (Feature), and Best Documentary (Short Subject). In 1965, Disney earned his sole Best Picture nomination, for the film Mary Poppins. He was posthumously awarded his final Academy Award in 1969 for Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day.

Competitive Academy Awards



The display case in the lobby of the Walt Disney Family Museum, in San Francisco, displays many of the Academy Awards that Walt Disney won or received. The distinctive, special award which he received for *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, is at the bottom.

Year	Category	Film/documentary	Result
1932 (5th)	Best Short Subject (Cartoon)	<i>Flowers and Trees</i>	Won
		<i>Mickey's Orphans</i>	Nominated
1933 (6th)		<i>The Three Little Pigs</i>	Won
		<i>Building a Building</i>	Nominated
1934 (7th)		<i>The Tortoise and the Hare</i>	Won
1935 (8th)		<i>Three Orphan Kittens</i>	Won
		<i>Who Killed Cock Robin?</i>	Nominated
1936 (9th)		<i>The Country Cousin</i>	Won
1937 (10th)		<i>The Old Mill</i>	Won
1938 (11th)		<i>Ferdinand the Bull</i>	Won
		<i>Brave Little Tailor</i>	Nominated
		<i>Good Scouts</i>	Nominated
		<i>Mother Goose Goes Hollywood</i>	Nominated
1939 (12th)		<i>The Ugly Duckling</i>	Won
		<i>The Pointer</i>	Nominated
1941 (14th)		<i>Lend a Paw</i>	Won
		<i>Truant Officer Donald</i>	Nominated
1942 (15th)		Best Documentary	<i>Der Fuehrer's Face</i>
	<i>The Grain That Built a Hemisphere</i>		Nominated
	<i>The New Spirit</i>		Nominated
1943 (16th)	Best Short Subject (Cartoon)	<i>Reason and Emotion</i>	Nominated
1944 (17th)		<i>How to Play Football</i>	Nominated
1945 (18th)		<i>Donald's Crime</i>	Nominated
1946 (19th)		<i>Squatter's Rights</i>	Nominated
1947 (20th)		<i>Chip an' Dale</i>	Nominated
		<i>Pluto's Blue Note</i>	Nominated
1948 (21st)	Best Short Subject (Two-reel)	<i>Seal Island</i>	Won
	Best Short Subject (Cartoon)	<i>Mickey and the Seal</i>	Nominated
		<i>Tea for Two Hundred</i>	Nominated
		1949 (22nd)	<i>Toy Tinkers</i>
1950 (23rd)	Best Short Subject (Two-reel)	<i>In Beaver Valley</i>	Won
1951 (24th)		<i>Nature's Half Acre</i>	Won
	Best Short Subject (Cartoon)	<i>Lambert the Sheepish Lion</i>	Nominated
1952 (25th)	Best Short Subject (Live Action)	<i>Water Birds</i>	Won

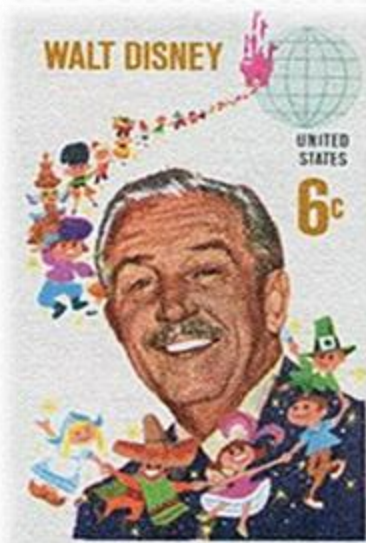
1953 (26th)	Best Documentary (Feature)	<i>The Living Desert</i>	Won
	Best Documentary (Short Subject)	<i>The Alaskan Eskimo</i>	Won
	Best Short Subject (Cartoon)	<i>Toot, Whistle, Plunk and Boom</i>	Won
		<i>Rugged Bear</i>	Nominated
	Best Short Subject (Two-reel)	<i>Bear Country</i>	Won
		<i>Ben and Me</i>	Nominated
1954 (27th)	Best Documentary (Short Subject)	<i>The Vanishing Prairie</i>	Won
	Best Short Subject (Cartoon)	<i>Pigs Is Pigs</i>	Nominated
	Best Short Subject (Two-reel)	<i>Siam</i>	Nominated
1955 (28th)	Best Documentary (Short Subject)	<i>Men Against the Arctic</i>	Won
	Best Short Subject (Cartoon)	<i>No Hunting</i>	Nominated
	Best Short Subject (Two-reel)	<i>Switzerland</i>	Nominated
1956 (29th)		<i>Samoa</i>	Nominated
1957 (30th)	Best Short Subject (Cartoon)	<i>The Truth About Mother Goose</i>	Nominated
1958 (31st)	Best Short Subject (Live Action)	<i>Grand Canyon</i>	Won
	Best Short Subject (Cartoon)	<i>Paul Bunyan</i>	Nominated
1959 (32nd)	Best Documentary (Short Subject)	<i>Donald in Mathmagic Land</i>	Nominated
	Best Short Subject (Cartoon)	<i>Noah's Ark</i>	Nominated
	Best Short Subject (Live Action)	<i>Mysteries of the Deep</i>	Nominated
1960 (33rd)	Best Short Subject (Cartoon)	<i>Goliath II</i>	Nominated
	Best Short Subject (Live Action)	<i>Islands of the Sea</i>	Nominated
1961 (34th)	Best Short Subject (Cartoon)	<i>Aquaman</i>	Nominated
1962 (35th)		<i>Symposium on Popular Songs</i>	Nominated
1964 (37th)	Best Picture	<i>Mary Poppins</i>	Nominated
1968 (41st)	Best Short Subject (Cartoon)	<i>Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day</i>	Won (posthumous win)

Honorary Academy Awards

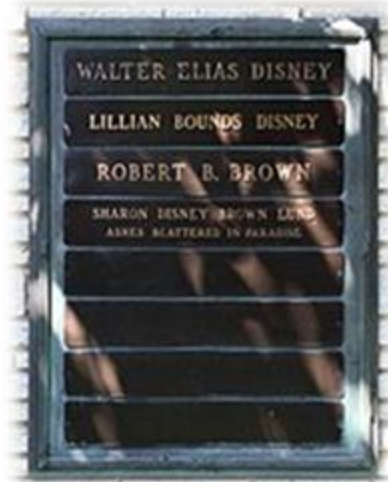
Year	To, for/award name	Award type
<u>1932</u> <u>(5th)</u>	To Walt Disney for the creation of <u>Mickey Mouse</u> .	Statuette
<u>1939</u> <u>(11th)</u>	To Walt Disney for <u>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs</u> , "recognized as a significant screen innovation which has charmed millions and pioneered a great new entertainment field for the motion picture cartoon."	One statuette and seven miniature statuettes on a stepped base
<u>1942</u> <u>(14th)</u>	To Walt Disney, <u>William Garity</u> , John N. A. Hawkins and the <u>RCA Manufacturing Company</u> "for their outstanding contribution to the advancement of the use of sound in motion pictures through the production of <u>Fantasia</u> ."	Certificate of merit
	<u>Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award</u>	Thalberg Award



Disney receiving the [Presidential Medal of Freedom](#)
in 1964 from President [Lyndon B. Johnson](#)



A portrait of Disney with cartoon representations of different nationalities on a 6-cent U.S. postage stamp, 1968



Grave of Walt Disney at Forest Lawn, Glendale



Disney shows the plans of Disneyland to officials from Orange County in December 1954.



Walt Disney introduces each of the seven dwarfs in a scene from the original 1937 Snow White theatrical trailer.



Sleeping Beauty Castle at Disneyland, Anaheim, California.



Cinderella Castle at Walt Disney World Resort, near Orlando, Florida.



Publicity still from Toy Story (1995),
the first computer-animated feature film.

Some Important Web Links

<https://disneyworld.disney.go.com/>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Walt-Disney>

<https://www.britannica.com/money/Disney-Company>

<https://thewaltdisneycompany.com/>

<https://www.disney.in/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walt_Disney

https://softschools.com/timelines/walt_disney_timeline/250/

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_Walt_Disney_Company

https://www.justdisney.com/walt_disney/timeline/index.html

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Walt_Disney_Pictures_films

Illness & Death

Disney had been a [heavy smoker](#) since World War I. He did not use cigarettes with [filters](#) and had smoked a pipe as a young man. In early November 1966, he was diagnosed with [lung cancer](#) and was treated with [cobalt therapy](#). On November 30, he felt unwell and was taken by ambulance from his home to [St. Joseph Hospital](#) where, on December 15, at age 65, he died of [circulatory collapse](#) caused by the cancer. His remains were cremated two days later and his ashes interred at the [Forest Lawn Memorial Park](#) in [Glendale, California](#).

The release of *The Jungle Book* and *The Happiest Millionaire* in 1967 raised the total number of feature films that Disney had been involved in to 81. When *Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day* was released in 1968, it earned Disney an Academy Award in the Short Subject (Cartoon)

category, awarded posthumous. After Disney's death, his studios continued to produce live-action films prolifically while the quality of their animated films was allowed to languish. In the late 1980s, this trend was reversed in what [The New York Times](#) describes as the "[Disney Renaissance](#)" that began with [The Little Mermaid](#) (1989). Disney's studios continue to produce successful film, television and stage entertainment.

Disney's plans for the futuristic city of EPCOT did not come to fruition. After Disney's death, his brother Roy deferred his retirement to take full control of the Disney companies. He changed the focus of the project from a town to an attraction. At the inauguration in 1971, Roy dedicated Walt Disney World to his brother. Walt Disney World expanded with the opening of [Epcot Center](#) in 1982; Walt Disney's vision of a functional city was replaced by a park more akin to a permanent [world's fair](#). In 2009, the Walt Disney Family Museum, designed by Disney's daughter Diane and her son Walter E. D. Miller, opened in the [Presidio of San Francisco](#). Thousands of artifacts from Disney's life and career are on display, including numerous awards that he received. In 2014, the Disney theme parks around the world hosted approximately 134 million visitors.



Timeline

Walt Disney Company

{https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_Walt_Disney_Company}

20th century

1923-1950

Year	Events	Notable film releases
1923	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In Los Angeles, Walt Disney sells his short live-action cartoon reel titled "Alice's Wonderland", produced by Laugh-O-Gram.^[u] Soon after, Walt and his brother Roy sign a contract to make 6 more such films, called Alice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

	<p>Comedies, which New York-based Margaret J. Winkler would distribute at \$1,500 per reel. The brothers would thereby join Winkler as a production partner.^{[1][2]}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to produce the series, the two brothers officially establish Disney on October 16, 1923, originally as Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio, with both Walt and Roy as equal partners.^{[1][3][4]} This studio is based in the back half of a real estate office on Kingswell Avenue in Hollywood.^[4] The brothers then persuade both Virginia Davis (who played Alice) and their collaborator Ub Iwerks to join them in Hollywood.^[1] 	
1924	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first Alice Comedies cartoon titled Alice's Day at Sea is released on March 1.^[4] 	•
1925	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio produces 15 more Alice Comedies cartoons including: Alice the Toreador, Alice Gets Stung and Alice Solves the Puzzle. 	•
1926	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio move into the new studio at 2719 Hyperion Avenue in the Silver Lake district of Los Angeles.^[4] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortly after, the studio changes its name to The Walt Disney Studio. 	•
1927	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After four years of working on his Alice Comedies series, Walt Disney decided to move on to an all-cartoon series. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To star in this series, Walt Disney creates the character Oswald the Lucky Rabbit.^[4] Charles Mintz, who had taken over M. J. Winkler's film company (Winkler Pictures), signs a contract with Universal Pictures for Winkler Pictures to produce 27 Oswald the 	•

	<p>Lucky Rabbit cartoons. Disney is brought on to do Oswald's design and animation for the cartoons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first <i>Oswald the Lucky Rabbit</i> cartoon titled Trolley Troubles is released on September 5.^[4] Walt Disney soon realizes that Universal retains the copyrights to all of his Oswald cartoons.^[4] 	
1928	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The studio loses the contract of the <i>Oswald</i> series. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several animators leave for Winkler Pictures where the series continues production. Walt Disney comes up with an idea for a new character to replace Oswald: Mickey Mouse, who became Disney's first cartoon star.^[5] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walt wanted to call him Mortimer Mouse, but his wife suggested Mickey instead. Steamboat Willie is released at New York's Colony Theater on November 18, marking the first public appearance of Mickey Mouse, as well as being the first cartoon released with synchronized sound.^[4] 	•
1929	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first Silly Symphony cartoon titled The Skeleton Dance is released on August 22.^[4] On December 16, The Walt Disney Studio is renamed to Walt Disney Productions, Ltd. Three other companies are also renamed to Walt Disney Enterprises, Disney Film Recording Company, and Liled Realty and Investment Company. Mickey speaks for the first time in The Karnival Kid; his words were "Hot dog, hot dog."^[6] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unhappy with how Mickey sounded, Walt Disney himself would provide the voice of Mickey until 1947.^[5] 	•
1930	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first Mickey Mouse comic strips begin on January 13.^[4] 	•

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Film distribution is moved to Columbia Pictures. Mickey Mouse shorts released this year include: The Barnyard Concert, Just Mickey, and The Cactus Kid. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pluto (unnamed at the time) makes his first appearance with the premiere of The Chain Gang on September 5. The first Disney book (<i>Mickey Mouse Book</i>) is published in November.^[4] 	
1931	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mickey's dog receives the name Pluto in The Moose Hunt. 	•
1932	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution moved from Columbia Pictures to United Artists. Goofy, under the name "Dippy Dawg", makes his first appearance with the premiere of "Mickey's Revue" on May 27. Flowers and Trees becomes the first full-color cartoon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It wins the 1932 Academy Award for Short Subjects, Cartoons, the first year that such a category was offered by the academy. (Disney would win in this category every year for the rest of the decade.)^{[4][6]} Walt Disney wins an Academy Honorary Award at the 5th Academy Awards for his creation of Mickey Mouse. 	•
1933	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three Little Pigs premieres on May 25. 	•
1934	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the success of the Mickey Mouse shorts, Walt begins producing a feature-length film. Some would dub this project as "Disney's Folly," as it went 400% over budget and required more than 300 animators, artists, and assistants. (The resulting 1937 film would later be heralded as groundbreaking.)^[1] Donald Duck makes his first appearance with the premiere of "The Wise Little Hen" on June 9. 	•
1935	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "The Band Concert" premieres on February 23, becoming the first Mickey Mouse cartoon in color. 	•

1936	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution moved from United Artists to RKO Radio Pictures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
1937	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disney releases its first feature film, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, on December 21 at Carthay Circle Theatre, becoming the highest-grossing film of all time up to that point.^[4] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
1938	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On September 29, Walt Disney Productions, Ltd., along with Walt Disney Enterprises, Disney Film Recording Company, and Liled Realty and Investment Company, are merged to form Walt Disney Productions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
1939	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (1937), Walt wins another Honorary Academy Award. (The award consisted of a regular-size Oscar statuette along with seven miniature versions, in reference to the dwarfs.)^[6] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
1940	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studio moves to Burbank, California Walt Disney Productions goes public and issues its first stock. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pinocchio Fantasia
1941	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A bitter animators' strike occurs. The studio begins producing propaganda films for the US during World War II.^[7] Such shorts produced this year include The Thrifty Pig and 7 Wise Dwarfs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The U.S. army move into the Disney studio lot on December 8. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dumbo
1942	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walt receives his third Honorary Academy Award, this time for Fantasia (1940) and its contribution to sound design.^[6] The Disney propaganda film released this year, starring Donald Duck, include:^{[5][6]} <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The New Spirit, which would be nominated for an Academy Award. Der Fuehrer's Face, which pokes fun of the Nazis and would win an Academy Award. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bambi
1943	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As another Disney propaganda film, Walt adapted Alexander de Seversky's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saludos Amigos

	book Victory Through Air Power (1942) as a live action-animated feature of the same name . ^{[5][6]}	
1944	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short on money, the company re-releases <i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs</i>, generating much-needed revenue and beginning a reissue pattern for their animated films. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
1945		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Three Caballeros
1946		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make Mine Music Song of the South
1947	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walt Disney lends his voice to Mickey Mouse for the last time in the "Mickey and the Beanstalk" segment of Fun and Fancy Free. Disney claims he has become too busy to continue voicing Mickey.^[5] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fun and Fancy Free
1948	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The True-Life Adventures nature film series begins with the premiere of Seal Island on December 21, continuing until 1960. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Melody Time Seal Island
1949	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The studio begins production on its first all-live action feature, Treasure Island. Disney licenses characters for use in Ice Capades.^[8] The Walt Disney Music Company is formed in October. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Adventures of Ichabod and Mr. Toad
1950	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treasure Island becomes the studio's first completely live-action feature.^[4] Premiering on Christmas Day, One Hour in Wonderland becomes the first-ever Disney television production.^[4] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cinderella Treasure Island

1951-1975

Year	Events	Notable film releases
1951		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alice in Wonderland
1952	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disney forms a second company, Walt Disney Inc., to build his new theme park.^[5] The Story of Robin Hood and His Merrie Men is the studio's second full live-action film.^[5] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Story of Robin Hood and His Merrie Men

1953	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walt hires a research firm to find the ideal location in southern California for a large-scale theme park.^[6] Walt Disney Inc. is renamed WED Enterprises, controlling the rights to Disney and holding the Disneyland design team (the "Imagineers"). Disney's idea to make moving figures of people that could also talk, would be used by WED to create Audio-Animatronics.^[5] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WED would later own and operate several attractions inside Disneyland, including the Disneyland Monorail System and the Disneyland Railroad. Disney makes the Disneyland programming deal with American Broadcasting-Paramount Theatres to fund Disneyland.^[9] The first People & Places short film, The Alaskan Eskimo, premieres on February 18. The Living Desert premieres on November 10 as the first film distributed by the new Buena Vista Distribution Company. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter Pan The Living Desert
1954	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction for Disneyland begins in July.^[6] The studio ends its distribution deal with RKO Radio Pictures and founds Buena Vista Film Distribution Company, Inc. to distribute its feature films. Disney debuts its anthology TV series, initially named Disneyland (before 6 title changes), on October 27. The show would run for 29 years, making it the longest-running primetime television series ever.^[4] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The story of Davy Crockett is told on the show on December 15. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea
1955	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disneyland opens in Anaheim, California, on July 17, 1955.^{[4][6][10]} It would be regarded as the first modern theme park of the US.^[11] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lady and the Tramp

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The park's debut is showcased via a live TV broadcast co-hosted by then-actor Ronald Reagan.^[6] The Mickey Mouse Club debuts.^[4] 	
1956		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Great Locomotive Chase
1957	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zorro debuts on October 10. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old Yeller
1958		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White Wilderness Tonka
1959	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Then-Vice-president Richard Nixon dedicates Monorail. On June 14, the Matterhorn and Submarine Voyage rides open at Disneyland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sleeping Beauty The Shaggy Dog Darby O'Gill and the Little People
1960		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pollyanna Swiss Family Robinson
1961	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disney purchases the film and merchandise rights to A.A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh books.^[12] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Hundred and One Dalmatians The Absent-Minded Professor The Parent Trap
1962		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Legend of Lobo In Search of the Castaways
1963	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Enchanted Tiki Room, the first attraction to feature Audio-Animatronics, opens at Disneyland on June 23. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sword in the Stone
1964	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary Poppins became Disney's top-grossing film up to this point, as well as one of the top-grossing films of all-time.^[2] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It wins in five categories at the Academy Awards, though losing the Best Picture award.^[6] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary Poppins

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four Disney exhibits open at the New York World's Fair. 	
1965	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walt Disney is awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Lyndon B. Johnson.^[5] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
1966	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In an October 1966 interview, Walt Disney described his vision of creating a planned community called the "City of Tomorrow;" "a showcase for American industry and research, schools, cultural and educational opportunities." Disney called this idea the "Environmental Prototype Community of Tomorrow" (EPCOT). Disney World's EPCOT would pay tribute to this idea.^[5] Walt Disney dies on December 15. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> His comments on EPCOT would be among the last public statements he ever made.^[5] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winnie the Pooh and the Honey Tree^[12]
1967	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction begins on Walt Disney World Resort near Orlando, Florida; the underlying governmental structure, called the Reedy Creek Improvement District, is signed into law. The release of The Jungle Book marks the last full-length animated film made with Walt Disney's direct involvement. Pirates of the Caribbean opens at Disneyland.^[13] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Jungle Book
1968		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Love Bug
1969	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Haunted Mansion opens at Disneyland. "Disney on Parade" debuts in Chicago. Released on December 24, 1968, The Love Bug becomes 1969's biggest box office hit and the second-highest-grossing film in Disney history after Mary Poppins.^[2] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
1970	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Walt Disney Archives are established. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Aristocats
1971	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walt Disney World opens in the eponymous filmmaker's honor on October 1.^[14] Company co-founder Roy O. Disney dies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bedknobs and Broomsticks

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Roy's place, Donn Tatum becomes chairman and CEO, and Card Walker becomes president. 	
1972		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Now You See Him, Now You Don't Snowball Express
1973		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robin Hood
1974		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herbie Rides Again
1975		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Escape to Witch Mountain

1976-2000

Year	Events	Notable film releases
1976	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Card Walker replaces Donn Tatum as CEO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freaky Friday Gus
1977	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roy E. Disney, son of Roy O. Disney, resigns from the company, citing a decline in overall product quality and issues with management. The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh becomes the only package feature released after Walt Disney's death. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh The Rescuers Herbie Goes to Monte Carlo Pete's Dragon
1978		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return from Witch Mountain
1979	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The release of The Black Hole marks the first Disney film to be rated PG. Costing \$20 million to produce, the film would also be Disney's most expensive film ever up to that point.^[15] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The film would ultimately get lost in the wide success of Star Wars (1977) and its 1979 re-release.^[2] Don Bluth and 12 fellow animators left Disney to found their own studio. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Black Hole

1980	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Card Walker replaces Donn Tatum as chairman • Ron W. Miller, son-in-law of Walt Disney, replaces Walker as president. • The first Disney home video titles are released. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Popeye (co-produced with Paramount Pictures)
1981	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The release of Dumbo on home video marks Disney's first animated home video release.^[16] • Plans for a cable network are announced. • The first Walt Disney's World on Ice show, produced by Feld Entertainment under license by Walt Disney Productions, tours the United States. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fox and the Hound • Dragonslayer (co-produced with Paramount Pictures)
1982	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPCOT Center opens at Walt Disney World Resort on October 1, with an investment of over a billion dollars.^[4] • The Coca-Cola Company unsuccessfully attempts to buy Disney. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tron
1983	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The anthology television series ends, after running for 29 years on all three networks. • The Disney Channel begins broadcasting on April 23, quickly becoming the fastest-growing channel on cable television.^{[2][4]} <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earlier that year, to prepare for the launch, the Company left network television. • New Fantasyland opens at Disneyland. • Ron W. Miller replaces Walker as CEO and Raymond Watson replaces Walker as chairman. • Tokyo Disneyland opens in Japan on April 15, as the first foreign Disney park.^{[4][17]} 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mickey's Christmas Carol • Never Cry Wolf • Something Wicked This Way Comes
1984	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Touchstone Films label is created to produce films aimed towards more mature audiences.^[4] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On March 9, Splash becomes the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Splash (Touchstone)

	<p>first film release under Touchstone.^[4]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hollywood Pictures label is created, like Touchstone, to produce comedy films aimed towards mature audiences. The studio narrowly escapes a buyout attempt by Saul Steinberg. In its aftermath, Roy Edward Disney and his business partner, Stanley Gold, remove Ron W. Miller as CEO & president and Raymond Watson as chairman, replacing them with Michael Eisner and Frank Wells. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eisner became the first person with no personal connection to Walt Disney to lead Walt Disney Productions.^[5] His first 4 years as CEO would see Disney surge from last place to first in box-office receipts among the 8 major studios.^[2] 	
1985	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a reversal of a three-decade studio policy, the studio begins making cartoons for television. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Its first Saturday morning cartoons, Adventures of the Gummi Bears and The Wuzzles, air on September 14. Touchstone Television is established to produce television programs and maintain Disney's strong network presence.^[4] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The division begins The Golden Girls soon after.^[4] The home video release of Pinocchio becomes a best-seller. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Black Cauldron

1986	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walt Disney Productions is renamed to The Walt Disney Company. Down and Out in Beverly Hills (released by Touchstone Pictures) becomes the studio's first R-rated film In collaboration with filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola, Captain EO opens as an attraction at Disneyland.^[4] Touchstone Television brings Disney's return to Sunday night TV with the Disney Sunday Movie.^[4] Disney features and TV shows begin syndication, first airing on September 4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Great Mouse Detective Down and Out in Beverly Hills The Color of Money Ruthless People
1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first Disney Store opens at Glendale Galleria in California. Partnering with filmmaker George Lucas, the Star Tours attraction opens in Disneyland.^[4] The Company and the French government sign an agreement for the creation of the first Disney resort in Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Euro Disney project starts. The first Disney Dollars are sold at Disneyland. DuckTales debuts in syndication. 50% of Metrocolor was acquired from Lorimar-Telepictures on December 9.^[18] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good Morning, Vietnam Three Men and a Baby
1988	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walt Disney Computer Software is established Disney's Grand Floridian Beach and Caribbean Beach Resorts open.^[4] For the first time ever, Disney leads Hollywood studios in the box-office, with several films passing the \$100-million milestone.^[4] The first Disney/Soviet Film Festival opens on October 16. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oliver & Company Who Framed Roger Rabbit Beaches Cocktail

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The TV station KHJ is acquired by Disney on December 2. 	
1989	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three new gated attractions open in Walt Disney World: Disney-MGM Studios, Pleasure Island, and Typhoon Lagoon; and Splash Mountain opens in Disneyland.^[4] Disney and Jim Henson discuss the possible acquisition of Jim Henson Productions, including The Muppets; Henson's death in 1990 ends the discussions.^[19] Hollywood Pictures begins operations on February 1. Hollywood Records is formed, offering recordings ranging from rap to movie soundtracks.^[4] The Little Mermaid marks the beginning of an era of wide success for Disney, a period now known as the Disney Renaissance. It would win Academy Awards for Best Original Score and Best Original Song (for "Under the Sea").^[2] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Little Mermaid Honey, I Shrunk the Kids Dead Poets Society
1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hollywood Records begins operations. The Disney Afternoon television syndication block debuts. Arachnophobia becomes the first release under the new Hollywood Pictures label. DuckTales the Movie: Treasure of the Lost Lamp becomes the first feature animated film not produced by Disney's main animation studio. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rescuers Down Under DuckTales the Movie: Treasure of the Lost Lamp Pretty Woman Dick Tracy Arachnophobia
1991	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first Disney Vacation Club Resorts opens at Walt Disney World. Disney moves into publishing for the first time, forming Hyperion Books, Hyperion Books for Children, and Disney Press.^[4] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hyperion Books publishes its first book on September 26. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beauty and the Beast The Rocketeer Father of the Bride

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The studio's 30th feature-length animated film, <i>Beauty and the Beast</i>, breaks the record for the most successful opening of an animated film, as well as becoming the highest-grossing picture of its genre. Accordingly, the film would go on to win the Academy Awards for Best Original Score and Best Original Score, and become the first-ever animated feature to be nominated for a Best Picture Oscar.^[2] 	
1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disney and Pixar sign their first three-picture deal.^[20] The company gets a National Hockey League expansion franchise; it is named the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim to coincide with the release of the film <i>The Mighty Ducks</i>. Euro Disney Resort opens outside Paris on April 12.^[4] The company commits to a record-high 25 new films in 1992, after Disney studios surpassed the theme parks in profitability by the second quarter of 1991.^[2] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Mighty Ducks</i> <i>Aladdin</i> <i>The Muppet Christmas Carol</i> <i>Sister Act</i>
1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disney acquires independent film distributor Miramax Films. Winnie-the-Pooh merchandise outsells Mickey Mouse merchandise for the first time. The Mighty Ducks of Anaheim play their first game at the Anaheim Arena, a new arena located 3 miles (4.8 km) east of Disneyland. The Disney Wilderness Preserve is established. Disney, LWT, STV, Guardian Media Group and Carlton Communications back a new ITV breakfast franchise, GMTV. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey</i> <i>The Adventures of Huck Finn</i> <i>Cool Runnings</i> <i>Hocus Pocus</i> <i>The Nightmare Before Christmas</i>
1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frank Wells, president of The Walt Disney Company, dies in a helicopter crash. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Lion King</i> <i>The Santa Clause</i> <i>The Jungle Book</i> (1994 live-action)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeffrey Katzenberg resigns as studio chairman to co-found his own studio, DreamWorks SKG. • The first Walt Disney Gallery opens at the MainPlace Mall in Santa Ana, California on November 4. • Disney Interactive is formed on December 5. • Plans for Disney's America, a historical theme park in Haymarket, Virginia, are abruptly dropped. • Euro Disneyland is renamed Disneyland Paris. • Beauty and the Beast opens on Broadway. • The Lion King becomes one of the highest-grossing films of all time.^[4] 	
1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disney announces plans to merge with Capital Cities/ABC, whose assets include ABC, Kenworth, McDonald's, and stakes in A&E Television Networks, ESPN, Peterbilt, Carlton Television, Central, Rover Group, MG Cars and DIC Entertainment. • Blizzard Beach opens at Walt Disney World on April 1. • Disney Online is founded. • The Disney Channel begins operation in the UK on October 1. • Michael Ovitz becomes president on October 2. • Walt Disney Pictures releases Toy Story, which would be the first feature-length film of Pixar Animation Studios and the first completely computer-animated feature film ever.^[20] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Goofy Movie • Pocahontas • Crimson Tide • Toy Story
1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Disney Institute opens at Disney World on February 9. • Disney.com is launched on the World Wide Web on February 22. • The merger of equals with Capital Cities/ABC is completed at \$19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muppet Treasure Island • James and the Giant Peach • The Hunchback of Notre Dame

	<p>billion, becoming the second-largest merger in US history.^[4]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio Disney debuts on the ABC Radio Networks on November 18. • Disney acquires Jumbo Pictures and Westcountry Television. • Disney makes a deal with Tokuma Shoten for dubbing and releasing of Studio Ghibli films in the U.S., as well as home video rights in Japan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rock • 101 Dalmatians (1996 live-action) • Scream
1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In January, Michael Ovitz, president of The Walt Disney Company, leaves the company. • The home video division releases its first DVDs. • Disney takes control of the Major League Baseball franchise the California Angels of the American League, renaming the team the Anaheim Angels in order to match the Mighty Ducks and to draw more tourism to Anaheim and nearby Disneyland. • Lyric Street Records is founded in June as a country music label. • At Walt Disney World, Disney's Wide World of Sports and Downtown Disney West Side opens.^[4] • The Lion King musical opens on Broadway.^[4] • Disney enters a 10-year distribution partnership with Pixar. • Playhouse Disney launches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hercules • Con Air • Flubber
1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Kingdom opens at Disney World on April 22;^[21] and Tomorrowland at Disneyland is redesigned.^[4] • Disney and the Hong Kong Government announce a new resort in Hong Kong. • Disney Magic, the first ship of the Disney Cruise Line, is launched on July 30. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mulan • Armageddon • The Parent Trap • A Bug's Life • Shakespeare in Love (co-produced with Universal Pictures)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESPN Magazine debuts on March 23. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Baltimore, Maryland, the first ESPN Zone opens on July 12. • Toon Disney launches. 	
1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GO Network is launched on January 12. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GO.com stock begins trading on the New York Stock Exchange on November 18. • All-Star Movies Resort opens at Disney World on January 15 • Disney Cruise Line ship Disney Wonder sets sail on August 15. • Mickey Mouse Works debuts on television on May 1. • The Hunchback of Notre Dame musical opens in Berlin, Germany.^[4] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tarzan • Toy Story 2 • Fantasia 2000 • The Sixth Sense
2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob Iger becomes president. • Soapnet launches. • Disney sells off DIC Entertainment with Peterbilt, Carlton and MG/Rover back to the company's CEO Andy Heyward. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinosaur • Remember the Titans • The Emperor's New Groove

21st century

2001-present

Year	Events	Notable film releases
2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disney purchases Fox Family Worldwide for \$3 billion in October. The purchase of the franchise included the Fox Family Channel, the library assets of Saban Entertainment and Fox Kids' brand name, the Fox Children's Productions library of shows, and its European and Latin American channels. Fox Family is renamed ABC Family shortly after the purchase. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantis: The Lost Empire • Monsters, Inc. • Pearl Harbor • The Princess Diaries

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fort Worth billionaire Sid Bass is forced to sell his Disney holdings due to a margin call caused partially by the stock market fall that followed the 9/11 attacks. • For the first time, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts open 2 new theme parks in the same year: Disney California Adventure Park in February, and Tokyo DisneySea in September.^[4] • Disney acquires The Baby Einstein Company on November 7. • The DVD release of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs sold over 1 million units on its first day.^[4] 	
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walt Disney Studios Park opens in March, adjacent to Disneyland Paris.^[4] • Disney purchases a minority stake in the then-sold Saban International Paris, which is then renamed to SIP Animation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lilo & Stitch • The Santa Clause 2 • Treasure Planet
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission: Space opens at Epcot, followed by the opening of the Pop Century Resort at Disney World.^[4] • Roy E. Disney resigns as the chairman of Feature Animation and from the board of directors, citing similar reasons to those that drove him off 26 years earlier. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fellow director Stanley Gold resigns with him and the two establish a group called "Save Disney" to apply public pressure to oust Michael Eisner. • Talks to extend distribution agreement with Pixar break down, and Pixar announces plans to seek a new distribution partner.^[22] • Disney sells the Angels to billboard magnate Arturo Moreno. • Walt Disney Animation France is closed. • Disney becomes the first studio in history to surpass \$3 billion in global box office.^[4] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding Nemo • Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl • Freaky Friday • Brother Bear

2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comcast makes an unsuccessful and hostile \$54.1-billion bid in stock for the company, plus the assumption of \$11.9 billion in Disney debt, \$66 billion in total. • Circle 7 Animation is founded. • Eisner is stripped of his chairmanship following a 45% vote of no-confidence from shareholders in the spring.^[20] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is replaced by George J. Mitchell as chairman of the board.^[20] • On February 17, Disney purchases The Muppets and Bear in the Big Blue House franchises from The Jim Henson Company for \$75 million, founding The Muppets Holding Company in the process.^[4] • ABC Family Worldwide, Fox Kids Europe, and Fox Kids Latin America launch Jetix, a brand name that would be used as a block for Toon Disney in the United States and as a rebranding of the Fox Kids channels in Latin America and Europe. Fox Kids Europe is renamed to Jetix Europe in the process. • Walt Disney Animation Japan is closed. • The Disney Store chain is sold to The Children's Place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Incredibles • National Treasure • Home on the Range
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disney sells the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim to Henry Samueli of Broadcom Corporation, who changes the team name to Anaheim Ducks. • Roy E. Disney rejoins the company as a consultant with the title of "Director Emeritus." • Eisner announces that will step down as CEO in September.^[20] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is replaced by Bob Iger.^[20] • Bob and Harvey Weinstein leave Miramax Films and take the Dimension Films banner with them, founding The Weinstein Company. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pacifier • Chicken Little • Herbie: Fully Loaded • The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hong Kong Disneyland opens in September.^{[4][23]} • On October 12, Disney becomes the first to license TV episodes for download on Apple's iTunes Music Store. • Disney releases Chicken Little, the studio's first completely computer-generated effort.^[20] 	
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disney acquires Pixar for \$7.4 billion on January 24, before their latest contract could expire in June.^[20] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deal is formally completed on May 5, after which Steve Jobs would serve as a director on Disney's board, while Pixar's leading creative John Lasseter would become COO of Pixar Studios, as well as the principal creative adviser at Walt Disney Imagineering.^[20] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pixar maintains its headquarters in Emeryville, California.^[20] • Circle 7 Animation ceases operations. • Walt Disney Animation Australia is closed. • High School Musical airs and its soundtrack goes platinum, breaking all Disney Channel records. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On March 14, <i>High School Musical</i> becomes the first full-length film to be sold via digital download, on the iTunes Store. • On February 9, Disney acquires the rights to Oswald the Lucky Rabbit (namely the character and 27 Walt Disney shorts) from NBCUniversal, trading ABC Sports commentator Al 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cars • Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest • High School Musical

	<p>Michaels to NBC Sports in exchange.^[24]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After its July release, Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest became Disney's highest-grossing feature.^[4] 	
2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABC Radio Networks, along with 22 non-Radio Disney and ESPN Radio, affiliates are sold to Citadel Broadcasting. In January, George J. Mitchell, chairman of The Walt Disney Company, leaves the company. Walt Disney Feature Animation is renamed to Walt Disney Animation Studios. The Muppets Holding Company is renamed to The Muppets Studio. The company begins to drop the Buena Vista brand from its divisions (e.g. Buena Vista Pictures Distribution is renamed to Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures and Buena Vista Games is renamed to Disney Interactive Studios). Disney acquires Club Penguin on August 1.^[20] High School Musical 2 set cable records on its debut on Disney Channel on August 17. Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End is the top-grossing film of the year worldwide.^[20] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet the Robinsons Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End Ratatouille The Game Plan National Treasure: Book of Secrets
2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Disney Store chain is reacquired from The Children's Place.^[4] Control of The Muppets Studio is transferred from Disney Consumer Products to the Walt Disney Studios.^[25] Disney announces plans to fully acquire Jetix Europe N.V. and take it off the Euronext, alongside rebranding the channels. Disney-MGM Studios is renamed to Disney's Hollywood Studios. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toy Story Midway Mania! is opened there as well as at Disney's California Adventure.^[4] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian WALL-E High School Musical 3: Senior Year Roadside Romeo Bolt

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's a Small World opens at Hong Kong Disneyland.^[4] • Disney English, the first Disney-operated language training center, is opened in China.^[4] • The Little Mermaid opens on Broadway. • WALL-E wins the 2008 Academy Award for Best Animated Feature 	
2009 ^[4] ₁	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disney launches its official fan club, D23.^[4] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Disney twenty-three</i> magazine begins publication. • The first biennial D23 Expo is held in Anaheim. • Disney XD launches, replacing Toon Disney in the United States, Germany and Japan, and Jetix in most regions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jetix would also be replaced by the Disney Channel brand in some regions. • Disney becomes an equity owner of Hulu on April 30. • Disney enters a distribution deal with DreamWorks Pictures, wherein upon DreamWorks' films will be distributed through Touchstone Pictures. • SIP Animation ceases operations. • The Walt Disney Family Museum opens in San Francisco on October 1. • Director Emeritus Roy E. Disney dies of stomach cancer. • Disney acquires Marvel Entertainment and its properties.^{[26][27]} • The Book of Masters (<i>Kniga Masterov</i>) is released as the first Disney film locally produced in Russia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race to Witch Mountain • Hannah Montana: The Movie • Up • A Christmas Carol • The Princess and the Frog
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disney sells the Power Rangers franchise and other related shows to Saban Brands for USD \$100 million.^[28] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alice in Wonderland • Toy Story 3

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disney sells Miramax Films to filmyard holdings for \$660 million.^[29] World of Color debuts at the renamed Disney California Adventure.^[4] Do Dooni Chaar ('Two Times Two Equals Four') premieres on October 10, becoming the first live-action Hindi film released by Disney in India. The video game Epic Mickey is released.^[4] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time Tangled Tron: Legacy
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disney licenses theme-park rights to the Avatar franchise from 20th Century Fox and Lightstorm Entertainment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disney announces Pandora – The World of Avatar at Animal Kingdom in Disney World. Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa opens in Hawai'i; The Little Mermaid: Ariel's Undersea Adventure debuts at Disney California Adventure; and groundbreaking ceremonies are held for Shanghai Disneyland.^[4] ImageMovers Digital ceases operations Playhouse Disney relaunches as Disney Junior on Valentine's Day. The Disney Dream ship sets sail. Disney begins distributing DreamWorks films in theatres, including The Help.^[4] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I Am Number Four becomes the first DreamWorks film under the Touchstone banner. Sister Act opens on Broadway and Peter and the Starcatcher opens off-Broadway.^[4] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides Cars 2 Winnie the Pooh The Help The Muppets War Horse
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rich Ross resigns as Chairman of The Walt Disney Studios, and is replaced by Alan F. Horn. Disney Junior launches its own channel, replacing Soapnet on most cable providers.^[4] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Carter Marvel's The Avengers Brave Frankenweenie

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On October 30, Disney announces its agreement to purchase Lucasfilm. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disney acquires Lucasfilm, owner of the Star Wars and Indiana Jones properties, from George Lucas for approximately \$4.06 billion.^[30] Disney's Art of Animation Resort and a new Test Track open at Disney World.^[4] Cars Land opens at Disney California Adventure.^[4] Disney Cruise Line's Disney Fantasy sets sail.^[4] Newsies opens on Broadway and wins two Tony Awards.^[4] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wreck-It Ralph Lincoln
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soapnet ceases operations. Fantasy Faire opens in Disneyland; and Mystic Point opens at Hong Kong Disneyland.^[4] Disney sells The Baby Einstein Company to Kids II, Inc. on October 14.^[31] Frozen becomes the highest-grossing animation film to date. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oz the Great and Powerful Iron Man 3 Monsters University Thor: The Dark World Frozen Saving Mr. Banks
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disney acquires Maker Studios for \$500 million. Seven Dwarfs Mine Train opens in Disney World's Magic Kingdom; and Ratatouille: L'Aventure Totalement Toquée de Rémy opens in Disneyland Paris' Walt Disney Studios Park.^[4] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Captain America: The Winter Soldier Maleficent Guardians of the Galaxy Big Hero 6 Into the Woods
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disney combines its Consumer Products and Interactive Media divisions into one unified segment, Disney Consumer Products and Interactive Media. Marvel Studios is reorganized under the Walt Disney Studios. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cinderella Tomorrowland Bridge of Spies Avengers: Age of Ultron Inside Out Ant-Man The Good Dinosaur

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Star Wars: The Force Awakens</i>
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shanghai Disneyland opens on June 16. • Construction on a 14-acre Star Wars-themed land begins at Disneyland and Disney's Hollywood Studios. • ABC Family is renamed to Freeform. • Disney acquires stock in BAMTech on August 9. • DreamWorks ends its film distribution deal with Disney. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Touchstone Pictures ceases operations. • The Jungle Book (live action) wins the 2016 Academy Award for Best Visual Effects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zootopia • Captain America: Civil War • The Jungle Book • Finding Dory • Doctor Strange • Moana • Rogue One: A Star Wars Story
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club Penguin shuts down on March 30. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club Penguin Island is released on the same day. • Maker Studios is renamed to Disney Digital Network. • Disney announces plans to launch a subscription video-on-demand service. • Iron Man Experience opens in Hong Kong as the first Marvel-themed ride at any Disney park.^[4] • Pandora – The World of Avatar opens at Disney's Animal Kingdom; and Guardians of the Galaxy – Mission: Breakout! opens at Disney California Adventure.^[4] • In November, John Lasseter announces that he is taking a 6-month leave of absence from the company, after acknowledging "missteps" in his behavior with employees. Media outlets report that Lasseter had a history of alleged sexual misconduct towards employees.^[32] • Disney announces its acquisition of key assets and businesses of 21st Century Fox from Rupert Murdoch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beauty and the Beast • Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 • Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales • Cars 3 • Thor: Ragnarok • Coco • Star Wars: The Last Jedi

2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toy Story Land opens at Shanghai Disneyland and Disney's Hollywood Studios; Pixar Pier debuts at Disney California Adventure; and the Tropical Hideaway opens in Disneyland's Adventureland.^[4] • In June: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disney announces that John Lasseter would leave the company, with Pete Docter and Jennifer Lee assuming the roles of chief creative officers for Pixar and Walt Disney Animation Studios, respectively. • Comcast announces a \$65 billion all-cash counter-offer to acquire the Fox assets that Disney was set to purchase. Disney counterbids with a \$71.3 billion offer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comcast drops offer in pursuit of Sky Group and Disney is free to acquire 21st Century Fox and most of their assets. • Disneytoon Studios ceases operations. • Soundstage A at Walt Disney Studios is dedicated to Disney veterans Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman. • The <i>Play Disney</i> app is launched.^[4] • The ESPN+ streaming service is launched. • Minnie Mouse receives a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.^[4] • Frozen: The Broadway Musical premieres.^[4] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Panther • Avengers: Infinity War • Solo: A Star Wars Story • Incredibles 2 • Ant-Man and the Wasp • Christopher Robin • Ralph Breaks the Internet • Mary Poppins Returns
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Club Penguin Island</u> shuts down on December 20. 	
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disney's <u>acquisition</u> of <u>21st Century Fox</u> is completed on March 20. • <u>Disney Digital Network</u> shuts down on April 30. • <u>Avengers: Endgame</u> becomes the company's <u>highest-grossing film</u> worldwide ever. • <u>Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge</u> opens at Disneyland and Disney's Hollywood Studios opens. • <u>Disney+</u> launches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Captain Marvel</u> • <u>Avengers: Endgame</u> • <u>Aladdin</u> • <u>Toy Story 4</u> • <u>The Lion King</u> • <u>Ford v. Ferrari</u> • <u>Jojo Rabbit</u> • <u>Frozen II</u> • <u>Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker</u>
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20th Century Fox and Fox Searchlight Pictures are renamed to <u>20th Century Studios</u> and <u>Searchlight Pictures</u> respectively. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its television counterparts ABC Studios, 20th Century Fox Television, and Fox 21 Television Studios are renamed to <u>ABC Signature</u>, <u>20th Television</u>, and <u>Touchstone Television</u> respectively. • <u>Bob Chapek</u> replaces Iger as CEO. • Disney <u>is majorly impacted</u> by the <u>COVID-19 pandemic</u>, resulting in multiple delays in film and television production and distribution, temporary closure of all of its theme parks and cruise lines, massive layoffs, and billion-dollar losses in revenue. • In December, <u>Alan Bergman</u> is named chairman of the <u>Disney Studios Content</u> division to oversee Disney's film studios. • <u>Touchstone Television</u> ceases operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Onward</u> • <u>Mulan</u> • <u>Nomadland</u> • <u>Soul</u>
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Blue Sky Studios</u> ceases operations. • <u>Sony Pictures</u> makes a multi-year licensing agreement with Disney for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Raya and the Last Dragon</u> • <u>Cruella</u> • <u>Luca</u>

	<p>its films to stream across Disney's streaming and linear platforms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fox 2000 Pictures ceases operations. • Soul wins the 2021 Academy Award for Best Animated Feature. • Nomadland wins the 2021 Academy Award for Best Picture. • Avengers Campus opens at Disney California Adventure. • Future World was permanently closed and it was divided into four different lands: World Celebration, World Nature, World Discovery, and World Showcase at EPCOT. • Iger's contract expires, with Susan Arnold replacing him as chair. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Widow • Free Guy • Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings • Nightmare Alley • Eternals • Encanto • West Side Story
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encanto wins the 2022 Academy Award for Best Animated Feature. • Avengers Campus opens at Walt Disney Studios Park. • Bob Iger rejoins the company as CEO, replacing Chapek. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turning Red • Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness • Lightyear • Thor: Love and Thunder • Black Panther: Wakanda Forever • The Banshees of Inisherin • Strange World • Avatar: The Way of Water
2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The company's centennial year. • Mark Parker replaces Arnold as chair. • 20th Digital Studio ceases operations. • Disney is majorly impacted by the 2023 Hollywood labor disputes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania • Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 • The Little Mermaid • Elemental • Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny • Haunted Mansion

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Creator • Wish • Poor Things
2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disney acquires a 10% stake for \$1.5 billion in Epic Games. • Sony takes over Disney's physical home video releases in North America. • Inside Out 2 becomes the highest-grossing animated film of all time. • Jennifer Lee steps down as chief creative officer of Walt Disney Animation Studios, and is succeeded by Jared Bush. 	

TimeLine

Walt Disney

https://softschools.com/timelines/walt_disney_timeline/250/

Walt Disney started with nothing, but he built a world-renowned entertainment industry. His movies, merchandise, and toys are still loved today, and his story is truly an inspirational one.

Date	Event
1901	<p>Walt Disney is born</p> <p>Walt Disney was born in Chicago to parents Elias and Flora. His given name was Walter Elias Disney.</p>
1910	<p>Life on the farm</p> <p>The Disney family moved to a farm when Walt was very young. He spent lots of his time drawing and imagining, but when his father became ill they had to sell the farm and move to Kansas City, Mo.</p>
1911	<p>Walt discovers movies</p>

	While living in Missouri, Walt got a paper route to help the family's financial situation. It was while working this job he first discovered movies, and he fell in love with them.
1917	Art school Walt continued drawing, and when his family returned to Chicago he enrolled in the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts. It was his dream to work as a newspaper cartoonist.
1918	World War I Though he was too young to join the army, Walt lied about his age in order to enlist. He fought in France for a year in the American Ambulance Corps.
1920	Walt's failure Walt joined forces with Ub Iwerks and formed a commercial artist company. However, the company failed after only a month.
1923	Walt tries again Over a few years, Walt tried a few different ventures which failed, including the Laugh-O-gram Corporation. He eventually founded Disney Brothers Studio in Hollywood, which would later become Hyperion Studio.
1928	Mickey Mouse is created At the height of the talking-picture revolution, Walt created a film called Steamboat Willie. It featured a talking mouse named Mickey, and it was an instant hit.
1930	Mickey Mouse merchandising Walt, along with his brother Roy, decided to play up Mickey's growing popularity. They created a merchandise line and the Mickey Mouse Club, which quickly grew to over one million members.
1937	Disney's first full length film After creating several "short" films, Walt decided to move ahead with full length films. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs was released.
1942	World War II

	After Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Walt Disney released multiple films including Fantasia, Pinocchio, and Dumbo. When WWII began, the US Army took over part of the studio to house troops, but Disney still managed to produce Bambi.
1950	Cinderella is a hit Disney released Cinderella, and it was an instant hit. It was their biggest success since the release of Snow White.
1955	Disneyland opens Walt Disney purchased land in California and built the Disneyland theme park. They had over one million visitors in just two months.
1965	Disney World ideas begin Walt purchased land in Florida to build a theme park called Epcot, which would be a peek into the technology of "tomorrow." It was an idea that eventually grew into Disney World.
1966	Walt Disney Dies At the age of 66, Walt Disney died of lung cancer on December 15, 1966. In the same year, Winnie the Pooh and the Honey Tree released, and Walt's legacy continued with dozens of films and multiple Disney theme parks around the world.

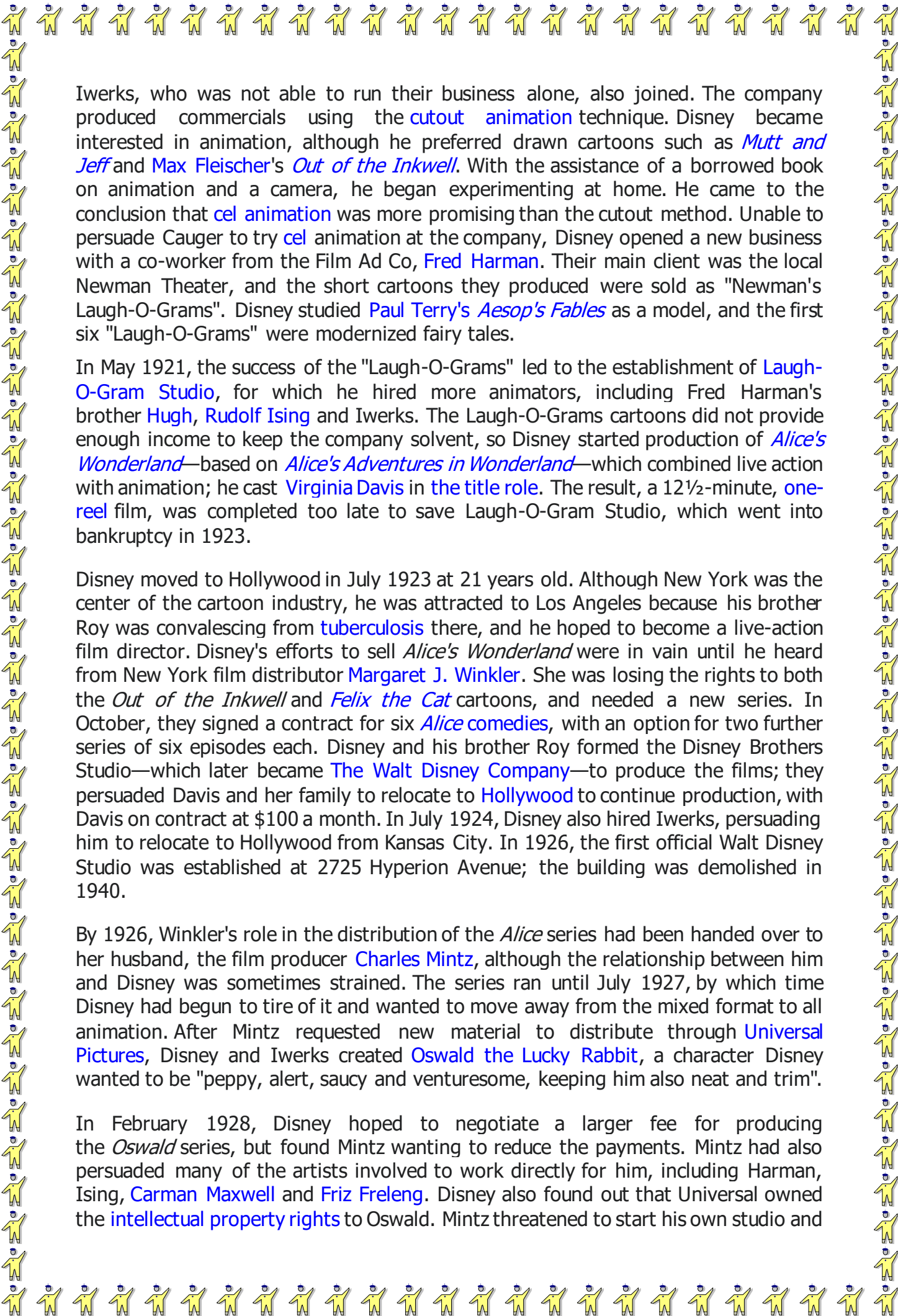
Career

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walt_Disney#Personal_life_and_character

Early career: 1920–1928



In January 1920, as Pesmen-Rubin's revenue declined after Christmas, Disney, aged 18, and Iwerks were laid off. They started their own business, the short-lived Iwerks-Disney Commercial Artists. Failing to attract many customers, Disney and Iwerks agreed that Disney should leave temporarily to earn money at the Kansas City Film Ad Company, run by A. V. Cauger; the following month



Iwerks, who was not able to run their business alone, also joined. The company produced commercials using the [cutout animation](#) technique. Disney became interested in animation, although he preferred drawn cartoons such as [Mutt and Jeff](#) and [Max Fleischer's Out of the Inkwell](#). With the assistance of a borrowed book on animation and a camera, he began experimenting at home. He came to the conclusion that [cel animation](#) was more promising than the cutout method. Unable to persuade Cauger to try [cel](#) animation at the company, Disney opened a new business with a co-worker from the Film Ad Co, [Fred Harman](#). Their main client was the local Newman Theater, and the short cartoons they produced were sold as "Newman's Laugh-O-Grams". Disney studied [Paul Terry's Aesop's Fables](#) as a model, and the first six "Laugh-O-Grams" were modernized fairy tales.

In May 1921, the success of the "Laugh-O-Grams" led to the establishment of [Laugh-O-Gram Studio](#), for which he hired more animators, including Fred Harman's brother [Hugh](#), [Rudolf Ising](#) and Iwerks. The Laugh-O-Grams cartoons did not provide enough income to keep the company solvent, so Disney started production of [Alice's Wonderland](#)—based on [Alice's Adventures in Wonderland](#)—which combined live action with animation; he cast [Virginia Davis](#) in the title role. The result, a 12½-minute, [one-reel](#) film, was completed too late to save Laugh-O-Gram Studio, which went into bankruptcy in 1923.

Disney moved to Hollywood in July 1923 at 21 years old. Although New York was the center of the cartoon industry, he was attracted to Los Angeles because his brother Roy was convalescing from [tuberculosis](#) there, and he hoped to become a live-action film director. Disney's efforts to sell *Alice's Wonderland* were in vain until he heard from New York film distributor [Margaret J. Winkler](#). She was losing the rights to both the *Out of the Inkwell* and *Felix the Cat* cartoons, and needed a new series. In October, they signed a contract for six [Alice comedies](#), with an option for two further series of six episodes each. Disney and his brother Roy formed the Disney Brothers Studio—which later became [The Walt Disney Company](#)—to produce the films; they persuaded Davis and her family to relocate to [Hollywood](#) to continue production, with Davis on contract at \$100 a month. In July 1924, Disney also hired Iwerks, persuading him to relocate to Hollywood from Kansas City. In 1926, the first official Walt Disney Studio was established at 2725 Hyperion Avenue; the building was demolished in 1940.

By 1926, Winkler's role in the distribution of the *Alice* series had been handed over to her husband, the film producer [Charles Mintz](#), although the relationship between him and Disney was sometimes strained. The series ran until July 1927, by which time Disney had begun to tire of it and wanted to move away from the mixed format to all animation. After Mintz requested new material to distribute through [Universal Pictures](#), Disney and Iwerks created [Oswald the Lucky Rabbit](#), a character Disney wanted to be "peppy, alert, saucy and venturesome, keeping him also neat and trim".

In February 1928, Disney hoped to negotiate a larger fee for producing the *Oswald* series, but found Mintz wanting to reduce the payments. Mintz had also persuaded many of the artists involved to work directly for him, including Harman, Ising, [Carman Maxwell](#) and [Friz Freleng](#). Disney also found out that Universal owned the [intellectual property rights](#) to Oswald. Mintz threatened to start his own studio and

produce the series himself if Disney refused to accept the reductions. Disney declined Mintz's ultimatum and lost most of his animation staff, except Iwerks, who chose to remain with him.

Creation of Mickey Mouse and following successes: 1928–1934

To replace Oswald, Disney and Iwerks developed [Mickey Mouse](#), possibly inspired by a pet mouse that Disney had adopted while working in his Laugh-O-Gram studio, although the origins of the character are unclear. Disney's original choice of name was Mortimer Mouse, but his wife [Lillian](#) thought it too pompous, and suggested Mickey instead. Iwerks revised Disney's provisional sketches to make the character easier to animate. Disney, who had begun to distance himself from the animation process, provided Mickey's voice until 1947. In the words of one Disney employee, "Ub designed Mickey's physical appearance, but Walt gave him his soul."

Mickey Mouse first appeared in May 1928 as a single test screening of the short [Plane Crazy](#), but it, and the second feature, [The Gallopin' Gaucho](#), failed to find a distributor. Following the 1927 sensation [The Jazz Singer](#), Disney used synchronized sound on the third short, [Steamboat Willie](#), to create the first post-produced [sound cartoon](#). After the animation was complete, Disney signed a contract with the former executive of Universal Pictures, [Pat Powers](#), to use the "Powers Cinephone" recording system; Cinephone became the new distributor for Disney's early sound cartoons, which soon became popular.



To improve the quality of the music, Disney hired the professional composer and arranger [Carl Stalling](#), on whose suggestion the [Silly Symphony](#) series was developed, providing stories through the use of music; the first in the series, [The Skeleton Dance](#) (1929), was drawn and animated entirely by Iwerks. Also hired at this time were several artists, both local and from New York. Both the Mickey Mouse and [Silly Symphonies](#) series were successful, but Disney and his

brother felt they were not receiving their rightful share of profits from Powers. In 1930, Disney tried to trim costs from the process by urging Iwerks to abandon the practice of drawing every frame individually in favor of the more efficient technique of drawing key poses and letting assistants [sketch the inbetween poses](#). Disney asked Powers for an increase in payments for the cartoons. Powers refused and signed Iwerks to work for him; Stalling resigned shortly afterwards, thinking that without Iwerks, the Disney Studio would close. Disney had a nervous breakdown in October 1931—which he blamed on the machinations of Powers and his own overwork—so he and Lillian took an extended holiday to Cuba and a cruise to Panama to recover.



With the loss of Powers as distributor, Disney studios signed a contract with [Columbia Pictures](#) to distribute the Mickey Mouse cartoons, which became increasingly popular, including internationally. Disney and his crew also introduced new cartoon stars like [Pluto](#) in 1930, [Goofy](#) in 1932 and [Donald Duck](#) in 1934. Always keen to embrace new technology and encouraged by his new contract with [United Artists](#), Disney filmed *[Flowers and Trees](#)* (1932) in full-color three-strip [Technicolor](#); he was also able to negotiate a deal giving him the sole right to use the three-strip process until August 31, 1935. All subsequent *Silly Symphony* cartoons were in color. *Flowers and Trees* was popular with audiences and won the inaugural [Academy Award](#) for best [Short Subject \(Cartoon\)](#) at the [1932 ceremony](#). Disney had been nominated for another film in that category, *[Mickey's Orphans](#)*, and received an [Honorary Award](#) "for the creation of Mickey Mouse".

In 1933, Disney produced *[The Three Little Pigs](#)*, a film described by the media historian Adrian Danks as "the most successful short animation of all time". The film won Disney another Academy Award in the Short Subject (Cartoon) category. The film's success led to a further increase in the studio's staff, which numbered nearly 200 by the end of the year. Disney realized the importance of telling emotionally gripping stories that would interest the audience, and he invested in a "story department" separate from the animators, with [storyboard artists](#) who would detail the plots of Disney's films.

Golden age of animation: 1934–1941



By 1934, Disney had become dissatisfied with producing cartoon shorts, and believed a feature-length cartoon would be more profitable. The studio began the four-year production of *[Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs](#)*, based on [the fairy tale](#). When news leaked out about the project, many in the film industry predicted it would bankrupt the company; industry insiders nicknamed it "Disney's Folly". The film, which was the first animated feature made in

full color and sound, cost \$1.5 million to produce—three times over budget. To ensure the animation was as realistic as possible, Disney sent his animators on courses at the [Chouinard Art Institute](#); he brought animals into the studio and hired actors so that the animators could study realistic movement. To portray the changing perspective of the background as a camera moved through a scene, Disney's animators developed a [multiplane camera](#) which allowed drawings on pieces of glass to be set at various distances from the camera, creating an illusion of depth. The glass could be moved to create the impression of a camera passing through the scene. The first work created on the camera—a *Silly Symphony* called *[The Old Mill](#)* (1937)—won the Academy Award for Animated Short Film because of its impressive visual power. Although *Snow White* had been largely finished by the time the multiplane camera had been completed, Disney ordered some scenes be re-drawn to use the new effects.

Snow White premiered in December 1937 to high praise from critics and audiences. The film became the most successful motion picture of 1938 and by May 1939 its total gross of \$6.5 million made it the most successful sound film made to that date. Disney won another Honorary Academy Award, which consisted of one full-sized and seven miniature Oscar statuettes. The success of *Snow White* heralded one of the most productive eras for the studio; the [Walt Disney Family Museum](#) calls the following years "the 'Golden Age of Animation'". With work on *Snow White* finished, the studio began producing *Pinocchio* in early 1938 and *Fantasia* in November of the same year. Both films were released in 1940, and neither performed well at the box office—partly because revenues from Europe had dropped following the start of [World War II](#) in 1939. The studio incurred a loss on both pictures and was deeply in debt by the end of February 1941.

In response to the financial crisis, Disney and his brother Roy started the company's [first public stock offering](#) in 1940, and implemented heavy salary cuts. The latter measure, and Disney's sometimes high-handed and insensitive manner of dealing with staff, led to a [1941 animators' strike](#) which lasted five weeks. While a federal mediator from the [National Labor Relations Board](#) negotiated with the two sides, Disney accepted an offer from the [Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs](#) to make a goodwill trip to South America, ensuring he was absent during a resolution he knew would be unfavorable to the studio. Due to the strike—and the financial state of the company—several animators left the studio, and Disney's relationship with other members of staff was permanently strained as a result. The strike temporarily interrupted the studio's next production, *Dumbo* (1941), which Disney produced in a simple and inexpensive manner; the film received a positive reaction from audiences and critics alike.

World War II and beyond: 1941–1950



Shortly after the release of *Dumbo* in October 1941, the U.S. entered World War II. Disney formed the Walt Disney Training Films Unit within the company to produce instruction films for the military such as *Four Methods of Flush Riveting* and *Aircraft Production Methods*. Disney also met with [Henry Morgenthau Jr.](#), the [Secretary of the Treasury](#), and agreed to produce short Donald Duck cartoons to promote [war bonds](#). Disney also produced several [propaganda productions](#), including shorts such as *Der Fuehrer's Face*—which won an Academy Award—and the 1943 feature film *Victory Through Air Power*.

The military films generated only enough revenue to cover costs, and the feature film *Bambi*—which had been in production since 1937—underperformed on its release in April 1942, and lost \$200,000 at the box office. On top of the low earnings from *Pinocchio* and *Fantasia*, the company had debts of \$4 million with the [Bank of America](#) in 1944. At a meeting with Bank of America executives to discuss the future of the company, the bank's chairman and founder, [Amadeo Giannini](#), told his executives, "I've been watching the Disneys' pictures quite closely because I knew we were lending them money far above the financial risk. ... They're good this year, they're good next year, and they're good the

year after. ... You have to relax and give them time to market their product." Disney's production of short films decreased in the late 1940s, coinciding with increasing competition in the animation market from [Warner Bros.](#) and [Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer](#). Roy Disney, for financial reasons, suggested more combined animation and live-action productions. In 1948, Disney initiated a series of popular live-action nature films, titled *[True-Life Adventures](#)*, with *[Seal Island](#)* the first; the film won the Academy Award in the [Best Short Subject \(Two-Reel\)](#) category.

Theme parks, television and other interests: 1950–1966

In early 1950, Disney produced *[Cinderella](#)*, his studio's first animated feature in eight years. It was popular with critics and theater audiences. Costing \$2.2 million to produce, it earned nearly \$8 million in its first year. Disney was less involved than he had been with previous pictures because of his involvement in his first entirely live-action feature, *[Treasure Island](#)* (1950), which was shot in Britain, as was *[The Story of Robin Hood and His Merrie Men](#)* (1952). Other all-live-action features followed, many of which had patriotic themes. He continued to produce full-length animated features too, including *[Alice in Wonderland](#)* (1951) and *[Peter Pan](#)* (1953). From the early to mid-1950s, Disney began to devote less attention to the animation department, entrusting most of its operations to his key animators, the [Nine Old Men](#), although he was always present at story meetings. Instead, he started concentrating on other ventures. Around the same time, Disney established his own film distribution division [Buena Vista](#), replacing his most recent distributor [RKO Pictures](#).



For several years Disney had been considering building a theme park. When he visited [Griffith Park](#) in Los Angeles with his daughters, he wanted to be in a clean, unspoiled park, where both children and their parents could have fun. He visited the [Tivoli Gardens](#) in Copenhagen, Denmark, and was heavily influenced by the cleanliness and layout of the park. In March 1952, he received zoning permission to build a theme park in Burbank, near the Disney studios. This site proved too small, and a larger plot in [Anaheim](#), 35 miles (56 km) south of the studio, was purchased. To distance the project from the studio—which might attract the criticism of shareholders—Disney formed WED Enterprises (now [Walt Disney Imagineering](#)) and used his own money to fund a group of designers and animators to work on the plans; those involved became known as "Imagineers". After obtaining bank funding he invited other stockholders, [American Broadcasting-Paramount Theatres](#)—part of [American Broadcasting Company](#) (ABC)—and [Western Printing and Lithographing Company](#). In mid-1954, Disney sent his Imagineers to every amusement park in the U.S. to analyze what worked and what pitfalls or problems there were in the various locations and incorporated their findings into his design. Construction work started in July 1954, and [Disneyland](#) opened in July 1955; the opening ceremony was broadcast on ABC, which reached 70 million viewers. The park was designed as a series of themed lands, linked by the central [Main Street, U.S.A.](#)—a replica of the main street in his hometown of Marceline. The connected themed areas were [Adventureland](#), [Frontierland](#), [Fantasyland](#) and [Tomorrowland](#).

The park also contained the [narrow gauge Disneyland Railroad](#) that linked the lands; around the outside of the park was a high [berm](#) to separate the park from the outside world. An editorial in *The New York Times* considered that Disney had "tastefully combined some of the pleasant things of yesterday with fantasy and dreams of tomorrow".^[114] Although there were early minor problems with the park, it was a success, and after a month's operation, Disneyland was receiving over 20,000 visitors a day; by the end of its first year, it attracted 3.6 million guests.



The money from ABC was contingent on Disney television programs. The studio had been involved in a successful television special on Christmas Day 1950 about the making of *Alice in Wonderland*. Roy believed the program added millions to the box office takings. In a March 1951 letter to shareholders, he wrote that "television can be a most powerful selling aid for us, as well as a source of revenue. It will probably be on this premise that we enter television when we do". In 1954, after the Disneyland funding had been agreed, ABC broadcast *Walt Disney's Disneyland*, an anthology consisting of animated cartoons, live-action features and other material from the studio's library. The show was successful in terms of ratings and profits, earning an audience

share of over 50%. In April 1955, *Newsweek* called the series an "American institution". ABC was pleased with the ratings, leading to Disney's first daily television program, *The Mickey Mouse Club*, a variety show catering specifically to children. The program was accompanied by merchandising through various companies (Western Printing, for example, had been producing coloring books and comics for over 20 years, and produced several items connected to the show). One of the segments of *Disneyland* consisted of the five-part miniseries *Davy Crockett* which, according to Disney biographer Neal Gabler, "became an overnight sensation". The show's theme song, "[The Ballad of Davy Crockett](#)", became internationally popular and ten million records were sold. As a result, Disney formed his own record production and distribution entity, [Disneyland Records](#).

As well as the construction of Disneyland, Disney worked on other projects away from the studio. He was consultant to the 1959 [American National Exhibition](#) in Moscow; Disney Studios' contribution was *America the Beautiful*, a 19-minute film in the 360-degree [Circarama theater](#) that was one of the most popular attractions. The following year he acted as the chairman of the Pageantry Committee for the [1960 Winter Olympics](#) in [Squaw Valley, California](#), where he designed the [opening, closing and medal ceremonies](#). He was one of twelve investors in the [Celebrity Sports Center](#), which opened in 1960 in [Glendale, Colorado](#); he and Roy bought out the others in 1962, making the Disney company the sole owner.



Despite the demands wrought by non-studio projects, Disney continued to work on film and television projects. In 1955, he was involved in "[Man in Space](#)", an episode of the *Disneyland* series, which was made in collaboration with [NASA](#) rocket designer [Wernher von Braun](#). Disney also oversaw aspects of the full-length features *Lady and the Tramp* (the first animated film in [CinemaScope](#)) in 1955, *Sleeping Beauty* (the first animated film in [Technirama 70 mm film](#)) in 1959, *One Hundred and One Dalmatians* (the first animated feature film to use [Xerox cels](#)) in 1961, and *The Sword in the Stone* in 1963.

In 1964, Disney produced *Mary Poppins*, based on [the book series](#) by [P. L. Travers](#); he had been trying to acquire the rights to the story since the 1940s. It became the most successful Disney film of the 1960s, although Travers disliked the film intensely and regretted having sold the rights. The same year he also became involved in plans to expand the [California Institute of the Arts](#) (colloquially called CalArts), and had an architect draw up blueprints for a new building.

Disney provided four exhibits for the [1964 New York World's Fair](#), for which he obtained funding from selected corporate sponsors. For [PepsiCo](#), who planned a tribute to [UNICEF](#), Disney developed *It's a Small World*, a boat ride with audio-animatronic dolls depicting children of the world; *Great Moments with Mr. Lincoln* contained an animatronic [Abraham Lincoln](#) giving excerpts from his speeches; *Carousel of Progress* promoted the importance of electricity; and Ford's Magic Skyway portrayed the progress of mankind. Elements of all four exhibits—principally concepts and technology—were re-installed in Disneyland, although *It's a Small World* is the ride that most closely resembles the original.

Disney (left) with his brother [Roy O. Disney](#) (right) and then Governor of Florida [W. Haydon Burns](#) (center) on November 15, 1965, publicly announcing the creation of Disney World

During the early to mid-1960s, Disney developed plans for a [ski resort](#) in [Mineral King](#), a glacial valley in California's [Sierra Nevada](#). He hired experts such as the renowned Olympic ski coach and ski-area designer [Willy Schaeffler](#). With income from Disneyland accounting for an increasing proportion of the studio's income, Disney continued to look for venues for other attractions. In 1963, he presented a project to create a theme park in downtown [St. Louis](#), Missouri; he initially reached an agreement with the Civic Center Redevelopment Corp, which controlled the land, but the deal later collapsed over funding. In late 1965, he announced plans to develop another theme park to be called "Disney World" (now [Walt Disney World](#)), a few miles southwest of [Orlando, Florida](#). Disney World was to include the "Magic Kingdom"—a larger and more elaborate version of Disneyland—plus golf courses and resort hotels. The heart of Disney World was to be the "Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow" ([EPCOT](#)), which he described as:

an experimental prototype community of tomorrow that will take its cue from the new ideas and new technologies that are now emerging from the creative centers of American industry. It will be a community of tomorrow that will never be completed, but will always be introducing and testing and demonstrating new materials and systems. And EPCOT will always be a showcase to the world for the ingenuity and imagination of American free enterprise.

During 1966, Disney cultivated businesses willing to sponsor EPCOT. He received a story credit in the 1966 film *Lt. Robin Crusoe, U.S.N.* as Retlaw Yensid, his name spelt backwards. He increased his involvement in the studio's films, and was heavily involved in the story development of *The Jungle Book*, the live-action musical feature *The Happiest Millionaire* (both 1967) and the animated short *Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day* (1968).

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